

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1198

By West

A RESOLUTION to recognize Joseph W. Carobene on the occasion of his retirement from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Joseph W. Carobene is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty-six years with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (TDMHDD); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carobene will be taking a much deserved retirement in June of 2008; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Carobene started his admirable tenure with TDMHDD, formerly the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, in June of 1972 as the Department's first Budget Analyst; and

WHEREAS, soon recognizing his significant leadership talents, TDMHDD promoted Mr. Carobene to an administrative position at Green Valley Development Center in Greeneville in 1975; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1977, Joseph Carobene became the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services at Clover Bottom Developmental Center in Nashville; while serving at Clover Bottom, he was called upon to temporarily lead the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute in Knoxville as interim Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer, and he did so with many positive outcomes during a time of intensive external review of the hospital's administrative practices; and

WHEREAS, after leaving his post at Clover Bottom, Mr. Carobene became the Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer of the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute in

Nashville, an office he filled astutely for fourteen years. During this time, he temporarily took over the operations of the Memphis Mental Health Institute to lead the hospital through a turbulent transitional period in which the entire staff, save one doctor, resigned and was replaced within the period of their two weeks' notices; his leadership also helped the hospital successfully complete surveys from several regulatory agencies, including Medicare, the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and the Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional and public servant, Joseph Carobene became the Deputy Commissioner for the TDMHDD in March of 2003, and admirably lead the organization to many more successes; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Carobene has directed the replacement and renovation of several important facilities, including the 1995 replacement of the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute and the 2007 replacement of the Memphis Mental Health Hospital; he also oversaw the design and development of a new facility that will open in Bolivar in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Carobene truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carobene's personal dedication to improving state services for those with mental illnesses and developmental disabilities has enriched the lives of countless Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Carobene epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Carobene has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and this Body alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Joseph W. Carobene our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement after an outstanding career with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.